

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2005**

The Emergency Management Advisory Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2005 at 8:05 A.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Advisory Council Members present were: Vice Chairman Nathan Miller, Mike Kyger, Dave Reagan, Carol Shelby, Garry Smith, John Withers, and Commissioner Ruth E. Shedd. Also present: Director Mark Kirby, Attorney David W. Luhman, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr. (Chairman Jimmie Kesterson, John Walker, and Councilmember Ronald Fruitt were absent.)

Deputy Director Tim Batta was also present.

Vice Chairman Miller called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Mr. Smith moved to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2005 Meeting as distributed, seconded by Mr. Kyger; motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS: Mark Kirby

Facilitator: The firm of Christopher Burke has the expectation of being hired as a Facilitator by the County for Emergency Management. Director Kirby said he plans to request an appropriation for funding at the January 10th County Council Meeting.

The Scott Air Mask issue: Director Kirby said the ball is in Scott's court. They have not responded to inquiries made over the past two months. He said it appears the State will let TEMA's application for 2005 monies to proceed in spite of this. (See 1/11/05, 7/12/05, 9/13/05, 10/11/05, & 11/08/05 Minutes)

Resolution 2003-13-CM: Appointing Tippecanoe County Homeland Security Director: Director Kirby pointed out that former TEMA Director Steve Wetschurack is named specifically as Homeland Security Director in the resolution. Attorney Luhman responded that the Commissioners can resolve this when they make their appointments for 2006. They can say the Homeland Security Director and the TEMA Director are one in the same without naming a specific individual.

Referring to points #1 and #3 under duties, Director Kirby wondered if he should have more interaction with Angie Honeywell who heads the Bio-Terrorism Program for the County Health Department.

1. Developing and managing state and federal grant funding for Emergency Management, Homeland Security and Bio-Terrorism Programs.
3. Directing and coordinating responses for disasters, emergencies, and threat assessment of terrorism including bio-terrorism.

Avian Flu: Emergency Management is involved in planning for an outbreak, and it is the expectation that TEMA will do what is necessary if there is an epidemic.

Budget: Director Kirby said he had no Budget Summary to distribute but reported they have sufficient funds to transfer among accounts to complete the year.

Federal Surplus Equipment: Director Kirby reported they recently shopped at the Federal Surplus Depot and purchased fifty military grade equipment bags (less than \$3 each) for the volunteers and other equipment for a total of less than \$300. While there, they learned that TEMA can dispose of the majority of their unusable equipment acquired from a Federal source after 12 to 18 months.

Haz-Mat Trailers: Deputy Director Batta has completed the organization of the three trailers.

Snow: TEMA has not been called upon during recent snow events due to a lack of problems.

Mobile Operations Center: TEMA Mobile Operations Center is parked on the 4th Street side of the Courthouse today for a tour by the Lafayette Police Department Dispatchers. Advisory Council members were invited to tour it after the meeting. Director Kirby said he is involved in on-going negotiations with the manufacturer regarding training on some of the systems. He recalls that training was involved but there is nothing to that effect in writing. He thinks the manufacturer should provide free training on equipment in this price range.

Safety Glasses: Director Kirby said the volunteers are well protected with clothing but he thinks they need safety glasses and possibly ear plugs. He wondered if Eli Lilly or Caterpillar would be willing to donate fifty (50) pair for the volunteers' safety.

Turn-out Gear: (Refer to 3/8/05 Minutes) Mr. Reagan asked about the progress of outfitting the volunteers with turn-out gear from Rural King. Director Kirby responded that the volunteers were asked to try on gear at Rural King to determine their size but, since only a handful responded, he took that as disinterest so he dropped the idea. Hard hats and flashlights have been distributed.

Ham Operators: Mr. Reagan asked if the radio system is complete in the Mobile Command Center regarding Ham Radio Operations and the National Guard. Director Kirby reported he has met three times with the Ham Operators and, during the Christmas Parade, a representative was in the Command Center communicating with their people stationed along the route. He said he has asked them what they think TEMA needs. He has not contacted the National Guard.

Large Equipment Storage: Mr. Miller asked if there is progress toward acquiring a storage building that is adequate to store TEMA's large equipment. Director Kirby said he has discussed this issue with the Commissioners but resources are limited. The wiring project at T27 (Sheriff's facility) has been completed so the three trailers can be plugged in as needed. There is sufficient room inside for the Mobile Command Center, the De-con trailer, and the Excursion. He mentioned there is still no word on when the former National Guard facility on South Street will be de-commissioned. When this happens, it will be offered to various entities for sale. Director Kirby thinks there is enough storage area to get all of TEMA's equipment under roof and the facility is centrally located. Mr. Miller asked if the County could move on acquiring this facility on short order if it becomes available. Attorney Luhman interjected that, if the price is reasonable and the funding source is available, the County could act on it in 30 to 60 days.

EOC Changes: Mr. Withers asked if there is progress toward updating the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) in the 629 Building. Director Kirby there have only been small changes in the Radio Room because he is reluctant to invest in the current facility if there is a possibility that TEMA will relocate. If something happens tomorrow, Ms Shelby asked where the EOC will be. Director Kirby said a large group would gather in the basement and communications would be upstairs in the Radio Room. Ms Shelby said, if it is not a Purdue-centered event, there would be space in their EOC Room in the Purdue Police Station. Director Kirby did recall that, when the 629 Building was rewired for the fiber project, they ran additional data and telephone connections to the basement.

SIREN TEST

Deputy Director Batta reported no failures during the test held on Saturday, December 3rd.

Mr. Smith asked for progress on the GPS Plotting for siren locations. Director Kirby said Khalid Hasan, GIS Administrator, is not comfortable using GPS because of the margin for error. He has asked for addresses of siren locations which they will plot for greater accuracy.

HAZ-MAT TEAM: Deputy Director Tim Batta

The Team had three responses in the past month:

- ♦ Fuel spill on I-65
- ♦ Analysis of Meth Paste during an incident in White County.
- ♦ Checked for dumping of Pepper Spray at Jefferson High School. He said there was no hit on the machine but they delayed calling for the Haz-Mat Team for almost an hour. Director Kirby said the delay gave the air handling system in the school sufficient time to take any evidence away.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Dave Reagan, Chairman

Mr. Reagan had no report other than he would like Dave Dilmer to serve on the Communications Committee.

Mr. Reagan asked if spare batteries are available for replacement in the radios. Director Kirby said he was able to purchase a good supply of batteries by tagging onto unexpended grant monies.

Mr. Reagan commented that West Lafayette Fire Department is now using the Simplex frequency and wondered if TEMA has considered switching to Simplex to avoid using the repeater. Director Kirby said he has not but he would talk to the Sheriff and the 911 Director before considering a change. He acknowledged there are frequency issues with the portable radios but feels comfortable that TEMA can communicate because of the dual transmit sites on the current system and access to the State's system and Eli Lilly's system. He said he will investigate the Simplex possibility.

Director Kirby reported he e-mailed all EMA Directors in the State asking if any used the "KIT" System. He said he received no affirmative response. When Mr. Smith said Montgomery County had the same system at one time, Director Kirby said he will check with their EMA Director later today.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice Chairman Miller asked about the procedure for contracting and setting up meetings with Christopher Burke as Facilitator for TEMA. Attorney Luhman responded they are waiting for Mark to get the appropriation from the County Council after which the Commissioners can sign the contract. Director Kirby thought it would be late January or February before meetings could be scheduled. Attorney Luhman suggested having an organizational meeting with Burke at the February meeting to define the process and the best way to proceed.

Director Kirby reported the volunteers are moving forward with their 501C3 status and writing a constitution and by-laws. They will elect a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer as well as two of the three members of the board of directors. Director Kirby said he will be the third member by virtue of his position as Director. He is concerned how they will interact with TEMA but so far they have acknowledged they are under TEMA's supervision.

Mr. Kyger, who is also a volunteer fireman, said the township has a contract with their volunteer organization. The volunteers sign that they will provide specified services to the township. Attorney Luhman said he thought a contract would be a good thing to have with the TEMA volunteers as an acknowledgment that they are in a supporting role for the County.

Vice Chairman Miller said he would like TEMA and the Advisory Council to receive learning points that resulted from the recent tornado in Evansville.

The next meeting of the TEMA Advisory Council will be held at 8:00 A.M., Tuesday, January 10, 2006 in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building.

ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Smith moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms Shelby; motion carried.

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor